- Introduction of a scheme for financing small and marginal farmers for purchase of land for agricultural purposes;
- Increasing the limit for financing of distribution of inputs for allied activities to Rs. 25 lakh; and
- Increasing the credit limit for produce (marketing) loan to Rs. 5 lakhs.

Kisan Credit Card

†1414. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have been issued Credit Card State-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any plan to issue credit cards to the marginal farmers of Bihar; and

(c) the major advantages of Kisan Credit Card and the details of the respective fields where these Cards can be used by the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRIANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The State-wise details of the total number of farmers who have been issued Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) during the last three years are given in Statement *(See* below).

(b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in order to facilitate wide coverage of farmers under the KCC Scheme, banks have been advised to consider issue of KCCs even for limits below Rs. 5000, which would cover small and marginal farmers in the country, including those in Bihar.

(c) The main objective of KCC Scheme is to provided adequate and timely support from banking system to farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible and coast effective manner. KCC holders can use the cards to readily purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and draw case for their production needs. Other salient advantages of the scheme are as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

> Full years requirement of the farmer borrower is taken careof;

> Minimum paper work and simplification of documentation for drawal of funds from the bank;

> Assured availability of credit for three years and avoidance fo uncertainty involved in accessing on year to year basis;

> Annual review of limit and provision for enhancement subject to satisfactory operations;

> Flexibility in use of credit and savings in interest burden;

> Flexibility in drawing cash from a branch other than the issuing branch at the discretion of the bank; and

> Availability of life cover/disability insurance cover at very low premium in case farmer meets with an accident.

Statement

State-wise details of the total number of farmers who have been issued

Kisan Credit Cards by banks during the last three years

SI. No.	Name of state/ Union Territory	No. of Kisan Credit Cards Issued
1.	A and N Island	882
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4780352
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	471
4.	Assam	17285
5.	Bihar	588183
6.	Chandigarh	20070
7.	Chhattisgarh	96197
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
9.	Daman and Diu	.0
10.	Goa	1905
11.	Gujarat	807523
12.	Haryana	819840
13.	Himachal Pradesh	193375
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	13498
15.	Jharkhand	99389
16.	Kamataka	1067767

SI. No.	Name of state/ Union Territory	No. of Kisan Credit Cards Issued
17.	Kerala	489586
18.	Lakshdweep	98
19.	Madhya Pradesh	649142
20.	Maharashtra	1181672
21.	Manipur	758
22.	Meghalaya	2312
23.	Mizoram	1102
24.	Nagaland	144
25.	NCT of Delhi	1949
26.	Orissa	1060521
27.	Pondicherry	12139
28.	Punjab	1072321
29.	Rajasthan	428091
30.	Sikkim	786
31.	Tamil Nadu	1534703
32.	Tripura	3913
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3675563
34.	Uttaranchal	76918
35.	West Bengal	1346903
	TOTAL	20045359

Ad Valorlem Central Excise duty on SSI units

1415. SHRIJANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the levy of 4% *ad valorlem* Central Excise duty on a number of SSI units has made them unviable and many of them are winding up and, therefore have represented to the Central Government to waive the Excise duty;

(b) if yes, the details in this regard and reaction of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. Reports received from the field formations do not indicate any winding up